

56-1020

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Durham Place

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 261 North Main Street  not for publication

city or town Maxeys  vicinity

state Georgia code GA county Oglethorpe code 221 zip code 30671

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

*William R. Hoyer*

William R Hoyer

April 19, 2017

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO

Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*For Eason H. Beall*

Signature of the Keeper

6.5.17

Date of Action

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
6	3	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

HEALTHCARE: clinic

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: granite

walls: WOOD: weatherboard

roof: METAL

other:

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

---

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Durham Place is an approximately 3.5-acre property located on the west side of Georgia Highway 77, across the road from the former Georgia Railroad bed in the small town of Maxeys in east Middle Georgia. The property includes a c.1844 one-story saddlebag house that was expanded c.1877-1880 into a gabled-wing cottage, a c.1844 single-pen cabin, a c.1844 apothecary/doctor's office, a c.1870 smokehouse, a 1990 shed, a 2014 chicken coop, and a 2014 barn. It is believed that the original two-room house was expanded into the gabled-wing cottage c.1877-1880. At an unknown date, the rear one room (now kitchen) was moved and added onto the house, but this room dates from c.1844. The cottage is covered with heart-pine clapboard and topped with a new metal roof. Original chimneys and windows remain. Decorative elements include a front bay window, brackets, and jigsaw trim on the porch. The house retains its floor plan from c.1877-1880, all interior wood floors, ceilings, molding, wainscoting, doors, and plaster walls. Most of the mantels are original to the house. The exterior walls of the gable-front apothecary/doctor's office are sheathed in heart-pine clapboard. The front, or east façade, contains two nine-over-nine sash windows and central doorway with original four-panel wood door. Each of the side elevations contains one four-panel door and a multi-light sash window. The apothecary/doctor's office contains three rooms and retains original heart-pine floors and ceilings. The front dispensing room retains its curved wall cabinets and free-standing compounding desk painted in its original colors of green and mustard. A built-in storage cabinet is located in the back room. The porch was added to the building in 1877 and contains Folk Victorian-style elements. On the grounds behind the cottage are a historic hand-dug brick-lined well and a new fire pit, built on the foundation of the former two-seater outhouse. Historic landscape elements include a row of boxwoods between the apothecary and the house. The driveway approach to the house is not historic and some landscape elements have been lost over time.

---

### Narrative Description

*The following description was written by Faye Short and Chip Wright, with editing by HPD staff, from the draft Historic District Information Form "Durham Place", which is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.*

Durham Place is located at 261 North Main Street, Maxeys, Georgia, on the west side of Highway 77, across the road from a railroad bed that is now devoid of tracks. Maxeys is located in Oglethorpe County in east Middle Georgia. Durham Place consists of a gabled-wing Folk Victorian cottage surrounded by several outbuildings, the most significant being an apothecary/doctor's office. Other historic outbuildings include a single-pen cabin and a smokehouse, as well as one historic structure – a brick-lined well. Nonhistoric buildings include a 1990 shed and 2014 barn; and a nonhistoric structure – a 2014 chicken coop.

Durham Place was first occupied by Dr. Milledge Spencer (Spence) Durham in the 1840s. He constructed a two-room, wood-framed, two-room saddlebag house c.1844 as his residence. The small house retains its footprint, nine-over-nine windows, and central chimney and has been incorporated into a larger gabled-wing cottage with Folk Victorian-style elements. The front of the house faces east towards Highway 77. The front-facing gable portion of the house has a bay window, original wood shutters, a diamond-shaped vent, brackets, and rooftop spire. A shed-roof porch, supported by three posts with decorative brackets, and a jigsaw-trim railing is located on this façade. The four-panel entrance door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom. One floor-to-ceiling window is located on the porch. The steps are brick. The foundation of the house consists of stone piers and infill concrete blocks. Original heart-pine clapboard sheaths the walls and the roof is covered with a new metal roof.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

From the north elevation, the three separate sections of the house are visible: the front c.1877-1880 gable-roof section with one six-over-six window, brackets, and diamond-shaped vent (photograph 6); the middle section, which is the c.1844 two-room house with central chimney; and the rear c.1844 one-room building that was moved and attached to the house at an unknown date (photograph 7).

The rear or west elevation reveals the additions and roofline changes to the house over time (photograph 9).

From the south elevation, the partial enclosure of the rear porch is evident (photograph 10). The porch was enclosed in the 1990s for use as a family room and a bathroom/closet. Towards the front of the house, the c.1877-1880 section contains two six-over-six sash windows, and eave brackets (photographs 4 and 5).

The interior floor plan retains its c.1877-1880 configuration with a central hallway and the original four-panel back door with sidelights (photographs 22 and 23). Picture molding, plaster walls, wainscoting, wood floor, trim, and ceiling are original. The original back door leads to a family room that was created in the 1990s with the partial enclosure of the rear porch (photographs 38 and 39).

The front room on the south side is the parlor with original plaster walls, wood floor, trim, and ceiling, picture molding, and wide baseboards. The wood mantel is original (photograph 24).

The bedroom that abuts the front parlor has the same mantel as the parlor. The room also retains original plaster walls, wood floor, trim, and ceiling, as well as picture molding and baseboard (photographs 27 and 28). A bathroom and closet were created in the 1990s out of the former back porch and are accessed from this bedroom.

The north side front room, now a bedroom, was the original library. The mantel is a replacement. All other finishes are original to the room, except a door to the closet and one wall that was removed in order to extract a beehive, and then replaced with sheetrock (photographs 25 and 26).

The c.1844 two-room section of the house abuts the former library. The ceiling was lowered in one of these rooms. Later the room was divided to create a bathroom and an office. This division created a hallway that parallels the main hallway (photographs 29 and 30). The other room remains intact. The dining room and office retain original mantels, floors, and the 13-foot ceiling in the dining room (photographs 31-34).

The kitchen, the former one-room building that was attached to the house at an unknown date, retains its original mantel and wood ceiling (photographs 35-37). There are two nine-over-nine historic windows on the south wall.

#### Outbuildings

The **smokehouse** is the closest outbuilding to the house (photographs 11-13). It is situated to the northwest of the small back porch on the north side of the house. The smokehouse likely dates to c.1870. A picket fence was installed around this area in the 1990s. The window on the south end is a later addition. The smokehouse is in disrepair and is sinking into the ground.

The **single-pen cabin** is located off of the back southwest corner of the house (photographs 15-17). Dr. William (Will) R. Durham, last Durham owner of the property, indicated that the one-room cabin was once used as the kitchen, but became the cook's cabin after the other one-room building was moved forward and attached to the main cottage as a "new" kitchen. The cabin was in poor condition until recent work was completed in 2015. A fireplace, formerly on the south side of the cabin, had crumbled, leaving a large opening into the cabin. The wall coming in from the lean-to on the north side was also deteriorated. Many of the boards, both inside floorboards and outside wallboards were rotted. These boards were replaced with boards of similar age. The cabin was shored up, leveled, and the chimney removed.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

The **apothecary/doctor's office** is located east of the house and sits just off of North Main Street. Considered a rare and unique building of its type in Georgia, with its circular walls and graduated shelving in the front room, the Durham Place apothecary is a one-story rectilinear wood-framed building with temple front that is three units deep (photographs 40-45). The exterior walls are sheathed in heart-pine clapboard and rest on heart-pine sills supported by rock piers. Facing Main Street, the building is oriented on an east-west axis. The building has few openings; there are two windows and a central doorway associated with the front (east facade), one window and one door on the north elevation, and one window and one door on the south elevation. The west elevation (or rear) has a non-historic wall with double window. The rear elevation was altered during the mid-20th century when this room was used as a garage for the family automobile. Small wood porches, one with a ramp, were added recently to replace the stones that had served as steps. All windows, except the replacement window in the middle room, exhibit heart-pine casements, jambs, framing, and sashes. Each sash has a nine-pane glazing pattern, which is of early 19th-century origin. The doors are heart pine and have four inset panels; the tallest panels are on the upper portion of the door. It is believed that the building was constructed c. 1844.

The front porch floor has been recently replaced with yellow pine due to deterioration of the original heart pine. The porch posts are decorated with Folk Victorian-style elements, decorative brackets, and ornate scalloping along the front cornice. The porch was added to the building in 1877 per a local newspaper article.

The interior floor plan is three units deep. The interior flooring is made up of 6-, 8-, and 12-inch heart-pine lumber of varying lengths.

The front room is accessed from the porch via a central doorway that is flanked by two large, shuttered windows, with original, ornate hardware. This room served as the Durham doctors' apothecary shop where medicines were prepared for dispensing to patients. The room tapers towards the west side of the room as the north and south walls curve to form a concave shape. Wall studs are sheathed with two-inch pine laths that are spaced 3/8-inch apart. Horse-hair plaster was originally applied to this surface and smoothed to form a nearly stone-like texture. Due to deterioration, most of the plaster was recently replaced with wallboard. The ceiling consists of lapped, jointed, hand-planed lumber that is 10 to 12 inches in width and of various lengths. There are no cornices at the ceiling and wall juncture; baseboards are nine-inches in height and exhibit decorative beading along the top edge. An elaborate wood shelving and drawer system was constructed along the north and south walls of the room. The walls gradually curve towards a doorway leading to the middle room. Though primitive in construction, the design is well executed. A central desk is located at the north end of the room and was likely used to prepare and dispense medicines and conduct transactions. The desk has been painted to match the original green and yellow. Elements of natural wood grain and the white walls provide a contrast within the space (photographs 46-49).

The middle room served as a storage area for supplies and as an examining or operating room. It was reported by former owners that a reclining doctor's chair was originally in this room. The doctor likely utilized the south side of the room in order to take advantage of the natural light emitted by the room's only window, which today houses a six-over-six replacement window. The east wall contains a four-panel door within the curved wall. The west wall of this room appears to have had a central fireplace or flue, which was most likely removed during the mid-20th century when the rear room was altered for use as the family garage. The space is currently an opening between the two rooms. The chimney flue theory is further bolstered by the historic doorway located to the south of the chimney opening which was the original egress and ingress point between the rooms. The four-panel door contains the words "Private Room for Consultation" above the door (photograph 53). The room retains its wood ceiling, floors, and baseboards. Walls are replacement sheetrock over the original lathing (photograph 51). The ceiling and baseboard color in this and the rear room is "old soldier" blue. Three of the interior doors retain their original colors of "old soldier" blue and chestnut, sealed to protect the original paint.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

The rear room may have served as a waiting room, with one half for white patients and the other for black patients. There are doors on each side of this room and the space appears to have been subdivided along its east-west axis. It is also known that when Dr. William Meigs Durham passed his practice on to Dr. Samuel Davis Durham and his brother William Orlando Durham, that they initially lived as bachelors in this third larger room. A built-in cabinet is located in the corner. It is unknown when the dividing wall was removed. The floors and ceiling are constructed using the techniques and materials found in the other two rooms. The walls were plaster, now sheetrock, over original lathing. One plaster wall was retained behind the cabinet. A historic window in the room is located in the north wall adjacent to the doorway (photograph 56). It is a nine-over-nine double-hung window. The south wall has a single door opening (photograph 57). The double window in the west wall is a new window. A small entry porch was recently added to the north side of the building and a handicap-accessible porch was added to the south side. The doors were already in place, with nothing but large stones as steps. All of the doors in the building are identical four-panel doors.

The American boxwoods separating the house from the doctor's office likely date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (photograph 4). Another row of boxwood previously lined an unpaved walkway from the road going directly to the front door of the house. In the 1970s, this walkway was removed and the driveway relocated from the south side of the house to the north side of the house. The driveway had previously entered from the road to the right (north) of the apothecary and gone directly to the large back porch on the south side of the house. The driveway now provides access to the small back porch on the north side of the house. The current owners created the circular driveway in front of the house and made a brick and gravel sidewalk from the circle to the front door (photographs 1 and 2). A new picket fence has been installed along the road frontage.

There is a mature grape arbor located on the north side of the house (photograph 6). Mature trees are scattered about the property and new foundation plantings and other shrubs have been installed. A small fire pit (photograph 9) has been created on the site of the original outhouse. The back of the property is larger and wider than the front section (photographs 19 and 21). There was a pecan grove at one time which lined the back of the property. Large oaks have grown up in the grove. Most of the pecans from these trees are smaller, "seed" pecans. The two larger pecan trees in the back yard produce larger, paper-shell pecans. There are also many black walnut trees on the property. A hand-dug, brick-lined well is located on the south side of the former pecan grove. It is counted as one contributing structure. The entire landscape is counted as one contributing site.

Noncontributing resources include a 1990 shed (photograph 18), a 2014 chicken coop (photograph 20), and a 2014 barn (photograph 14). All are located behind the house.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

**Period of Significance**

c.1844-1923

**Significant Dates**

c.1844 – construction of saddlebag house

c.1844 – construction of apothecary

c.1877– porch of apothecary constructed

c.1877-1880 – gabled-wing cottage constructed

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins c.1844 with the construction of the saddlebag house and the apothecary/doctor's office, and ends in 1923 when the last of the Durham doctors practiced in the apothecary/doctor's office.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Durham Place is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a late 19th-century gabled-wing Folk Victorian-style cottage. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, gabled-wing cottages were popular throughout the state, in both urban and rural areas, and were typically built between 1875 and 1915. The Folk Victorian style was popular throughout the state from the 1870s to the 1910s and was applied to simple house forms such as the gabled-wing cottage. The Durham house retains its floorplan and exterior and interior character-defining features including the wood siding, chimneys, windows, wood floors, wood ceilings, wood trim, and several mantels. All of the historic outbuildings retain integrity. The apothecary/doctor's office is a rare Georgia resource that retains its heart-pine clapboard siding, windows, shutters, and interior features such as the curved apothecary room and desk. Durham Place is also significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of health/medicine for its association with the Durham family of doctors. The building housed the doctor's office and the front horseshoe-shaped dispensary room with original compounding desk, and served in this capacity from the time of its construction c.1844 until 1923 when Dr. Samuel Davis Durham, the last of the Durham doctors to practice here, gave up his practice. The building was constructed at a time when academic medicine was in its infancy. Most of the five Durham doctors that practiced medicine at this location were educated in Philadelphia and practiced "eclectic" medicine, which included both herbal and conventional medicines and procedures.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Durham Place is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a late 19th-century gabled-wing Folk Victorian-style cottage in the town of Maxeys. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, gabled-wing cottages were popular throughout the state in both urban and rural areas, and were typically built between 1875 and 1915. The Folk Victorian style, which consists of decorative detailing such as jigsawed woodwork including brackets and turned porch posts, was generally taken from more elaborate styles such as the Queen Anne. The style was popular throughout the state from the 1870s to the 1910s and was applied to simple house forms. The Durham house retains its floorplan and exterior and interior character-defining features including the wood siding, chimneys, windows, wood floors, wood ceilings, wood trim, and several mantels.

The one-story Durham Place cottage was constructed c.1877-1880 around a c.1844 two-room saddlebag house. Changes to the house include the addition of a one-room building that was added on to the back of the house at an unknown date. It is believed that the one room was constructed c.1844 and it currently serves as the kitchen. An open porch on the south elevation was partially enclosed in the 1990s for a family room. Despite these changes, the house retains its gabled-wing floorplan and finishes and is a good example of this building type from its era.

The apothecary/doctor's office is a rare Georgia resource that retains its heart-pine clapboard siding, windows, shutters, and interior features such as the curved apothecary room and compounding desk. It is believed to date from c.1844 based upon its Greek Revival form, curved walls, and hand-hewn timbers. It is unknown whether all three rooms of the building were constructed at the same time. Uneven alignment of the



Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

floorboards from room to room point to a possible expansion of the original front room, but there is no concrete documentation to support this. The Folk Victorian-style porch was added in 1877 and it is possible that the back rooms were added at this date. The building is very intact and is an excellent example of a rare Georgia resource.

Other historic outbuildings include a cabin (c.1844) and a smokehouse (c.1870). Both retain integrity, although repairs have been made to the cabin and the smokehouse is resting upon the earth. Based on oral history, it is believed that numerous other cabins, presumably slave cabins, once lined a former roadbed on the south side of the extant cabin. These have been lost to time and decay. There are newer resources on the property including a small shed (1990), a chicken coop (2014), and a barn (2014). All of these resources are located behind the house.

Durham Place is also significant in the area of health/medicine for its association with the Durham family of doctors. The c.1844 house and apothecary/doctor's office were built by Dr. Milledge S. Durham after he was appointed postmaster of Maxeys in 1844. Milledge Spencer Durham was the first of several doctors to occupy the property. Relying often on herbal remedies to treat patients, the apothecary building contained drawers and bins to store medicinal plants. The apothecary building housed the doctor's office and the front horseshoe-shaped dispensary room with original compounding desk, and served in this capacity from the time of its construction c.1844 until 1923 when Dr. Samuel Davis Durham, the last of the Durham doctors to practice here, gave up his practice. The building was constructed at a time when academic medicine was in its infancy. Most of the five Durham doctors that were connected to the property were educated in Philadelphia and practiced "eclectic" medicine, which included both herbal and conventional medicines and procedures.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

*The following historic context was written by Faye Short and Chip Wright, with editing by HPD staff, from the draft Historic District Information Form "Durham Place", which is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.*

Like hundreds of other small towns in rural Georgia, the history of the town of Maxeys, halfway between Crawford in Oglethorpe County to the north and Union Point in Greene County to the south, is tied to the existence of the railroad line that once bisected it. Much of what distinguishes Maxeys is its connection to the Durham doctors who lived here and provided medical care to local residents, both black and white, for more than a century.

The railroad came first. In 1833, a group of Athens businessmen, frustrated when their heavy ox-drawn freight wagons routinely mired in the mud on the road to and from Augusta, chartered the Georgia Railroad Company to build a railroad west from Augusta into the interior of the state. Although Jesse Maxey, an enthusiastic proponent of railway transportation, ceded a generous right-of-way through his Oglethorpe County land to the railroad company, he moved several miles away from town as soon as construction began in 1839 due to his concerns about the railroad's possible negative health effects on his family and livestock. By 1841, the Athens Branch, a 41-mile stretch of track that started on Carr's Hill in Athens and ended at Union Point was completed, running past the collection of crude wooden railroad shacks, or shanties, that sprang up near its midpoint.

At first, the Athens Branch would carry only horse-drawn rail wagons and passenger carriages and did not convert to more efficient steam-powered locomotives until 1847. Local landowner William H. "Bill" Gilliam was

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

appointed U. S. Postmaster of the fast-growing settlement, named "Shanty," that had grown at the midpoint of the line. Gilliam set up shop in the newly built railroad depot and acted as Shanty's first depot agent. Even though mail delivery was not the daily service contemporary Americans have come to expect, the position of U. S. Postmaster was highly sought after and commanded great respect in 19th-century America, if for no other reason than postmasters could read and write, skills prized in a largely illiterate agricultural population.

The name of the town was changed to Salmonville in 1842 when Lewis Salmon became postmaster. The name changed again in 1850 to Maxey, while George Maxey was postmaster. Maxeys, as it had become by the 1860s, was incorporated in 1907. The town began a decline following the boll weevil infestation of cotton in the 1920s, followed by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Today, the quiet town is home to several retired University of Georgia professors as well as other active and retired professionals. Young families are attracted to Maxeys because of the A.T. Brightwell Scholarship that was established in 1957. The scholarship still supports the public college education of any qualified high school graduate whose family lives within the city limits of Maxeys.

#### *The Durham Brothers*

Three Durham brothers came from Durham County, England, and settled in Hanover County, Virginia, in 1750. Two of these brothers, Abraham (Abram), and Samuel Davis Durham were soldiers in the American Revolution, and were given frontier lands in payment for their services. After several scouting expeditions, and after living in several locations, Samuel Davis Durham took up land grants between what is now Maxeys and the Oconee River, the dividing line at the time between white settlers and the Native Americans. Samuel died in Oglethorpe County in 1801. It appears Abraham Durham remained in the same general area since his death is marked as occurring in 1826 in Clarke County, Georgia.

#### *Dr. Lindsey Durham*

Lindsey Durham (1789-1859) was the fourth child in the family of Samuel Davis Durham and his wife. At a young age, he saw much hardship and disease and decided to become a doctor. In these years following the American Revolution, schools and churches were beginning to be established in the Oconee River area that Lindsey grew up in. There was little organized medical study in the country, but Lindsey combined the knowledge gained from the Creek Indians and the African enslaved community into his work. He also undertook studies in plants and herbs in Bartram's Botanical Gardens in Philadelphia, as well as studying at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School between 1816 and 1820. Georgia's first medical school would not be established until 1830 in Augusta. Dr. Durham returned to Georgia, acquiring land across the Oconee River in the Scull Shoals District of Clarke County (today Oconee County) between 1820 and 1825. The nearby University of Georgia in Athens had been established in 1785 and Mercer Institute (later University) at Penfield would be established in 1833, both within a 20-mile radius of Scull Shoals. Due to its excellent farmland and newly established educational institutions, this was considered the center of the state for settlement at the time. It would be in nearby Jefferson, Jackson County that Dr. Crawford Long would experiment with ether for use in surgery in 1842. During the early 19th century, the town of Scull Shoals was a thriving commercial center along the Oconee River and hosted the state's first paper mill, then became home to a cotton factory. The town would die out by the end of the 19th century, and today it is a historic site owned by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Oconee National Forest.

Dr. Durham returned to Philadelphia in 1825 for a year to study at Jefferson Medical College, also studying at the College of Pharmacy where he acquired additional knowledge about compounding medicines from plants. He returned to Scull Shoals and his medical practice, and established a sanitarium or hospital which grew to 14 rooms and numerous cabins. Patients would travel by rail to Salmonville (later Maxeys) and then by wagon to Scull Shoals. The 13-acre garden that he established at his home contained every known medicinal plant that could be cultivated in Georgia. At this time he was recognized as Georgia's leading doctor. Durham was successful in business endeavors as well, and became a wealthy philanthropist. Many of Dr. Durham's

Durham Place

Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia

County and State

sons, grandsons, nephews, and other relatives became medical doctors. Several of his sons practiced with him at the sanitarium. Other relatives were associated with the house and doctor's office in Maxeys, Georgia, at what came to be known as Durham Place.

*Dr. Milledge S. Durham*

The earliest doctor at Durham Place in Maxeys appears to have been Dr. Milledge Spencer "Spence" Durham, who was a second cousin and student of Dr. Lindsey Durham. Spence Durham's grandfather was Abraham Durham. Spence Durham's father John (son of Abraham) died in 1813 in Clarke County at the age of 26. His widow, Matilda Reynolds Durham, took her infant son Spence to Williamson County, Tennessee, to live with her father Spencer Reynolds. Matilda remarried c.1829 to John A. Boon in Tennessee and had two more children. It is believed that Matilda sent her son Spence back to Athens/Scull Shoals for medical training under Dr. Lindsey Durham. While in Georgia, Spence married Elizabeth "Betsy" Sorrells in Athens in April 1831. Betsy was the daughter of Ethelred Sorrell and Nancy Walker Sorrell. Nancy was the older sister of Martha Walker Durham, wife of Dr. Lindsey Durham of Scull Shoals. The sisters were children of William Walker of Oglethorpe County.

After his marriage, Spence returned briefly to Williamson County, Tennessee, where, in 1832, he signed a petition relating to the free travel of a slave "Dr. Jack" who had been trained by his master to be a medical assistant. Spence and Betsy had returned to Athens by 1837 when a son, Milledge Lindsey, was born. In the 1840 census for Clarke County, Georgia, Spence Durham's household (including 13 slaves) was enumerated one household away from Lindsey Durham's.

Spence Durham was named postmaster of Salmonsville (later known as Maxeys) in October 1844. He served in that position (and as a farmer and medical doctor at Durham Place) until 1848 when he was succeeded as postmaster by George Maxey, who was later succeeded by Thomas Fleming.

Judging from the 1850 census (taken July 31, 1850), it would appear that Spence Durham and his family lived on the west side of the main street in Maxeys. To the north were only three other families (William Brightwell, Richard Bell, and James Young), to the south were only two families (James Maxey and John Boling).

In 1850, the Spence Durham household included a 26-year-old merchant, Thomas Fleming, and his bride, Eliza Jane (McWhorter), two white carpenters (Nathan Brightwell and Hope Dickens), an overseer (Spence Durham was one of many slaveholders in the area), a clerk, and a young physician named Addison Bell. It appears that Fleming and his wife stayed with Dr. Durham, while the two carpenters (and local slave labor) completed the construction of the house across the road (the house known as the Bailey House).

By 1860 Spence Durham and his family were living in Watkinsville, Georgia, reporting \$16,000 worth of real estate and \$57,300 in personal property (which would include slaves). An avowed Unionist, records show Dr. Milledge Spencer Durham nevertheless served as the Confederate postmaster in Watkinsville during the Civil War (he requested and was granted a pardon in 1865). He was enumerated in Watkinsville in the 1870 and 1880 census.

Dr. Addison A. Bell, one of the residents of Durham Place noted in the 1850 census, moved to Madison (Morgan County) sometime after 1864 (although he applied for Confederate pardon from Oglethorpe County in 1864). The 1870 and all subsequent census records report Dr. Bell as living in Madison. It is possible that he remained in Maxeys in the Durham house until immediately after the Civil War. Around 1870 a distant cousin of Spence Durham's, Dr. William Meigs Durham, a 24-year-old Confederate Army veteran, took over the practice in Maxeys.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

*Dr. William Meigs Durham*

Dr. William Meigs Durham, grandson of Dr. Lindsey Durham, was born in Clarke County, Georgia, May 10, 1846, and died in February 1919. At the age of 15, William Meigs entered the army in Company K, 42nd Georgia Regiment under Captain W. L. Calhoun and Colonel Robert J. Henderson.

After the war, Durham studied with his father, Dr. William Walker Durham, at Georgia Eclectic Medical College in Atlanta, and graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. It is believed that William Meigs Durham arrived in Maxeys in the 1870s, and lived in the Durham house. Records indicate that it was William Meigs Durham who enlarged the original house and added the porch to the apothecary, which was announced in the June 7, 1877 edition of *The Oglethorpe Echo*, a local newspaper published in nearby Lexington. A tornado in 1875 and a burglary in the house may have contributed to the need for alterations to the property c.1877-1880. The May 1880 edition of the *Oglethorpe Echo* reported, "Dr. W.M. Durham is building a nice dwelling in front of his old one and fixing up in general."

Dr. William Meigs Durham sold the house to a local merchant Robert S. Gilliam and his wife Susan Maxey when he relocated to Atlanta in 1883 to become a professor at the Georgia Eclectic Medical College where he remained for 20 years. However, he retained ownership of the apothecary. The building was passed on to his first cousin, Samuel "Sam" Davis Durham, and his brother, Dr. William Orlando Durham, who initially lived in the back of the building. When William Orlando married Sallie Myrt Gilliam, daughter of Robert S. Gilliam, the house reverted back to Durham ownership upon the death of Robert and Susan Gilliam.

*Dr. John Lindsey Durham*

Dr. John Lindsey Durham, grandson of Dr. Lindsey Durham, and brother of William Meigs Durham, was born in Clarke County, Georgia, July 22, 1853, and died December 24, 1923. Dr. Durham was educated at Mercer and graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He practiced with his brother at Maxeys before moving to Woodville (Greene County) where he then managed a large medical practice for 50 years.

*Dr. Samuel Davis Durham*

Dr. Samuel Davis Durham, grandson of Dr. Lindsey Durham, was born in Clarke County, Georgia, February 22, 1860, and died September 14, 1927. His twin sister was Laura Durham, who also studied medicine. Dr. Durham graduated from Georgia Eclectic Medical College in Atlanta, and was known as one of the best of "The Durham Doctors." He began his practice in Maxeys in 1884, living in the back of the building, since the main house had been sold. In 1894, Sam brought his younger brother into the practice to help with the patient load. Sam and William lived in the apothecary building until 1901 when William married Sallie Gilliam, the daughter of the family occupying the main house. Dr. Sam was somewhat eccentric and carried his beard, four or five feet long, tucked under his coat. While he never married, he fathered 10 children with Sarah Fambrough Mason, a local mulatto woman. He practiced in Maxeys until 1923 when he retired due to poor health.

*Dr. William Orlando Durham*

Dr. William Orlando Durham, grandson of Dr. Lindsey Durham, (and brother of Samuel Durham) was born in Clarke County, Georgia, August 22, 1868, and died October 5, 1929. William Orlando practiced medicine with his brother, Dr. Sam, who moved him to Maxeys in 1894, to help with the patient load, and then sent him to the Georgia Eclectic Medical College in Atlanta. William Orlando married Sallie Myrt Gilliam, and they had two children, Dr. Will Durham of Decatur (formerly of Maxeys) and Miss Frances Durham of Maxeys. William Orlando practiced in Maxeys almost 30 years.

Oglethorpe County tax records indicate that the property, including the apothecary/doctor's office and house, was passed on to their son, Dr. William Robert Durham (1902-1979), who deeded it to his sister, Frances Durham, recorded on August 18, 1965. Dr. William Robert Durham attended medical school in Augusta before

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

serving in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He later served as a medical officer for the Veterans Administration in Atlanta before retiring to Maxeys. He did not practice medicine in Maxeys.

At the time of Miss Frances' death on June 10, 1978, the property passed to Sally Durham Trapnell, the last Durham to own Durham Place. The current owners purchased the property in 2012 and have rehabilitated all of the buildings, except for the smokehouse.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Wright, Chip. "Durham Place." *Historic Property Information Form*, September 4, 2013. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

### Books

Calhoun, Charles H., Sr. *Dr. Lindsey Durham: A Brief Biography and The Durham Doctors: Biographical Sketches*. Self-published, 1965.

Hudson, Karen E. *Oglethorpe County, Georgia: A Survey of Historic Farmsteads*. Lexington, GA: Historic Oglethorpe County, Inc., 1986.

McRee, Fred W., Jr. *Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Newspaper Extracts, "The Oglethorpe Echo"*. Lexington, GA, 2006-2009.

*National Archives, Appointments of U. S. Postmasters*, Vol. 10, 1832-1844; Vol. 17, 1844-1857; Vol. 26, 1857-1876.

Rodgers, Ava D. *The Housing of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1790-1860*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University Press, 1971.

Smith, Florrie Carter. *The History of Oglethorpe County, Georgia*. Washington, GA: Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc., 1970.

Smith, Florrie Carter. *Supplement I to The History of Oglethorpe County, Georgia*. Washington, GA: Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc., 1970.

Smith, Florrie Carter. *Supplement II to The History of Oglethorpe County, Georgia*. Washington, GA: Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc., 1978.

Wise, Lena Smith. *The Story of Oglethorpe County*. Lexington, Ga.: Historic Oglethorpe County, Inc., 1980.

### Newspapers and Periodicals

*Athens Banner-Herald*, (Athens GA), 16 November 2007.

*The Augusta Chronicle & Sentinel*, (Augusta GA), 2 May 1875; 5 May 1875.

*The Daily Constitution*, (Atlanta GA), 15 October 1876; 13 February 1881.

*The Georgia Eclectic Medical Journal*, (Atlanta GA), Vol. 12, No. 1 March 1890.

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

*Oconee Enterprise*, (Watkinsville GA), 16 September 1927.

*Oglethorpe Echo*, (Lexington GA), 24 September 1875, 21 January 1876, 2 February 1888, 25 September 1891, 11 March 1898, 16 September 1927, 12 October 1939, 18 August 1960.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 53370

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.5  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

**Datum if other than WGS84:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

**1. Latitude:** 33.756378

**Longitude:** -83.175020

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the current legal boundary and property associated with the house.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist  
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date April 2017  
street & number 2610 GA Hwy 155, SW telephone (770) 389-7842  
city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281  
e-mail Lynn.speno@dnr.ga.gov

Durham Place  
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia  
County and State

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Durham Place

City or Vicinity: Maxeys

County: Oglethorpe State: Georgia

Photographer: Jamie Derevere

Date Photographed: March and September 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 57. Along Highway 77; photographer facing south.
- 2 of 57. Front and north elevation of cottage; photographer facing west.
- 3 of 57. Front façade of cottage; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 57. Front and south elevation of cottage; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 57. South elevation of cottage; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 57. North elevation of cottage; photographer facing south.
- 7 of 57. North elevation of cottage; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 57. Towards rear of cottage and outbuildings; photographer facing east.
- 9 of 57. Rear of cottage; photographer facing east.
- 10 of 57. South elevation of cottage; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 57. Smokehouse and rear of cottage; photographer facing east.
- 12 of 57. Smokehouse; photographer facing north.
- 13 of 57. Smokehouse; photographer facing west.
- 14 of 57. Smokehouse and barn; photographer facing west.
- 15 of 57. Cabin; photographer facing west.
- 16 of 57. Cabin; photographer facing south.
- 17 of 57. Cabin interior; photographer facing west.
- 18 of 57. Shed; photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 57. From back of property; photographer facing east.
- 20 of 57. Chicken coop; photographer facing north.
- 21 of 57. Towards back of property; photographer facing west.
- 22 of 57. Cottage entrance hall; photographer facing west.

Durham Place

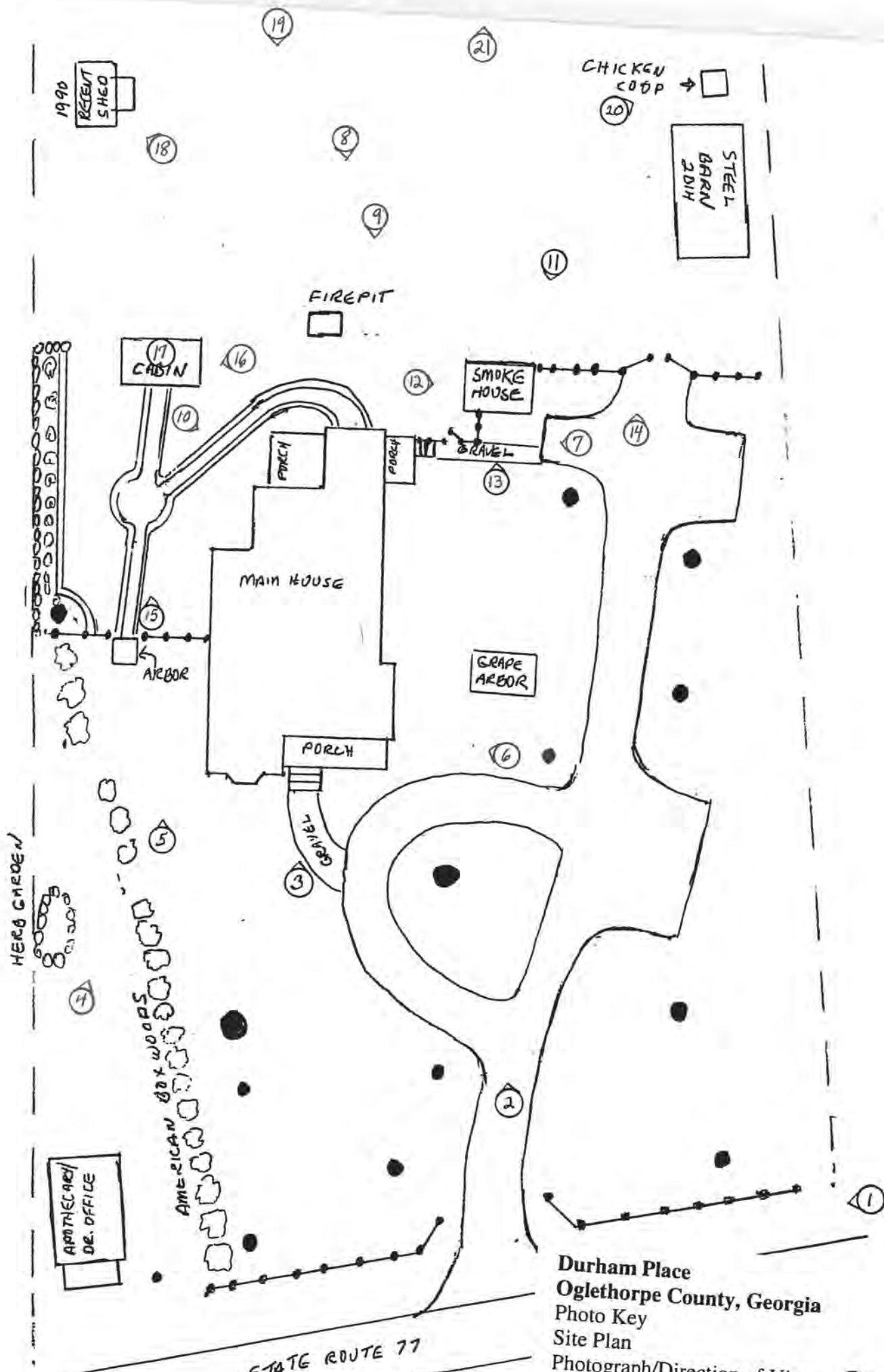
Name of Property

Oglethorpe Co., Georgia

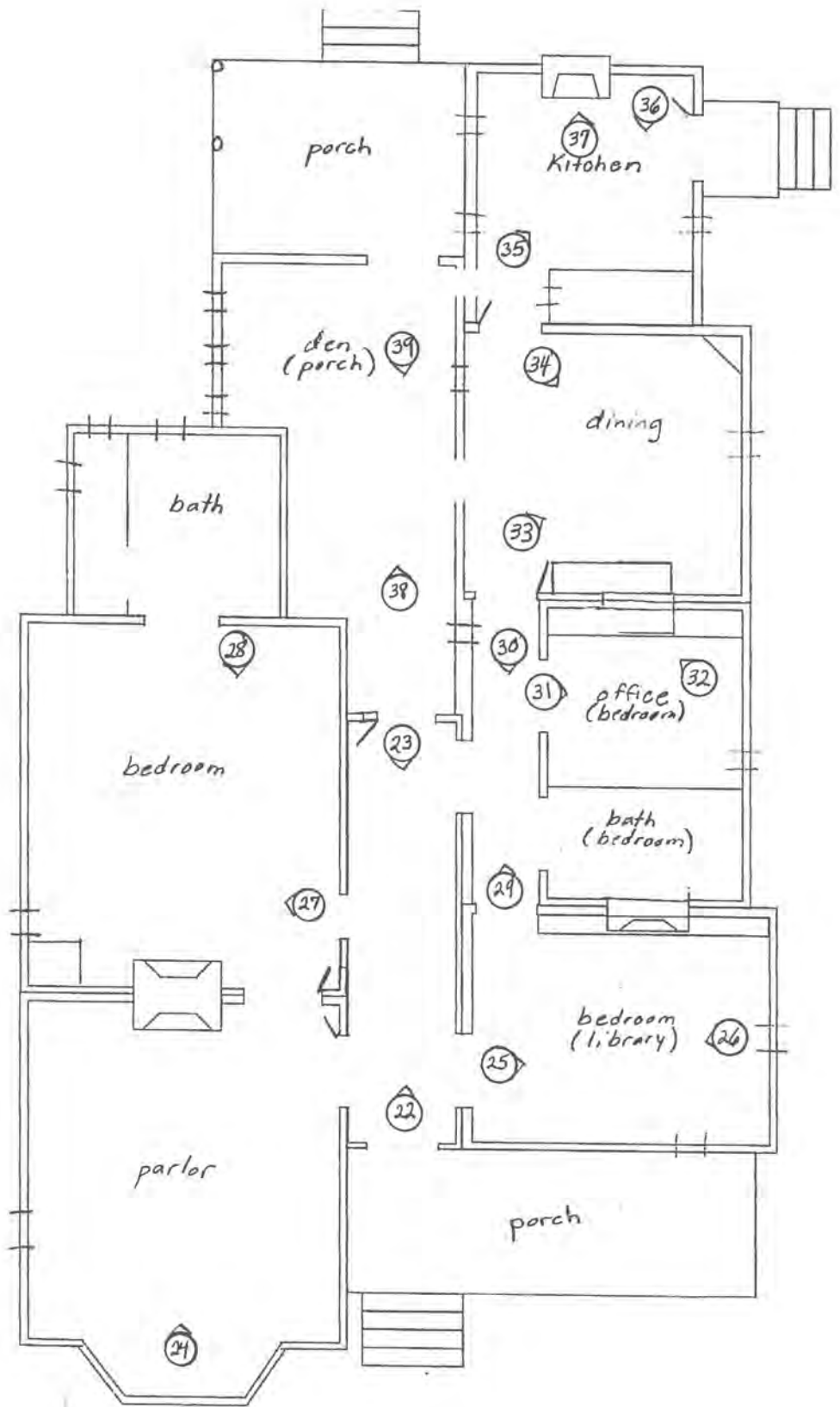
County and State

- 23 of 57. Cottage entrance hall; photographer facing east.
- 24 of 57. Parlor; photographer facing west.
- 25 of 57. Bedroom; photographer facing north.
- 26 of 57. Bedroom; photographer facing south.
- 27 of 57. Master bedroom; photographer facing south.
- 28 of 57. Master bedroom; photographer facing east.
- 29 of 57. Parallel hallway; photographer facing west.
- 30 of 57. Parallel hallway; photographer facing east.
- 31 of 57. Office; photographer facing north.
- 32 of 57. Office; photographer facing southwest.
- 33 of 57. Dining room; photographer facing northwest.
- 34 of 57. Dining room; photographer facing northeast.
- 35 of 57. Kitchen; photographer facing northwest.
- 36 of 57. Kitchen; photographer facing east.
- 37 of 57. Kitchen; photographer facing west.
- 38 of 57. Family room; photographer facing west.
- 39 of 57. Family room; photographer facing east.
- 40 of 57. Apothecary; photographer facing west.
- 41 of 57. Apothecary; photographer facing west.
- 42 of 57. Apothecary; photographer facing southwest.
- 43 of 57. North and west elevations; photographer facing southeast.
- 44 of 57. South elevation; photographer facing northeast.
- 45 of 57. West or rear elevation; photographer facing east.
- 46 of 57. Front room of apothecary with compounding desk; photographer facing east.
- 47 of 57. Front room; photographer facing west.
- 48 of 57. Front room; photographer facing northwest.
- 49 of 57. Front room; photographer facing east.
- 50 of 57. Front room; photographer facing west.
- 51 of 57. Curved wall of front room; photographer facing east.
- 52 of 57. Middle room; photographer facing southwest.
- 53 of 57. Middle room; photographer facing west.
- 54 of 57. Back room; photographer facing east.
- 55 of 57. Back room; photographer facing west.
- 56 of 57. Back room; photographer facing north.
- 57 of 57. Back room; photographer facing southeast.





Durham Place  
Oglethorpe County, Georgia  
Photo Key  
Site Plan  
Photograph/Direction of View:



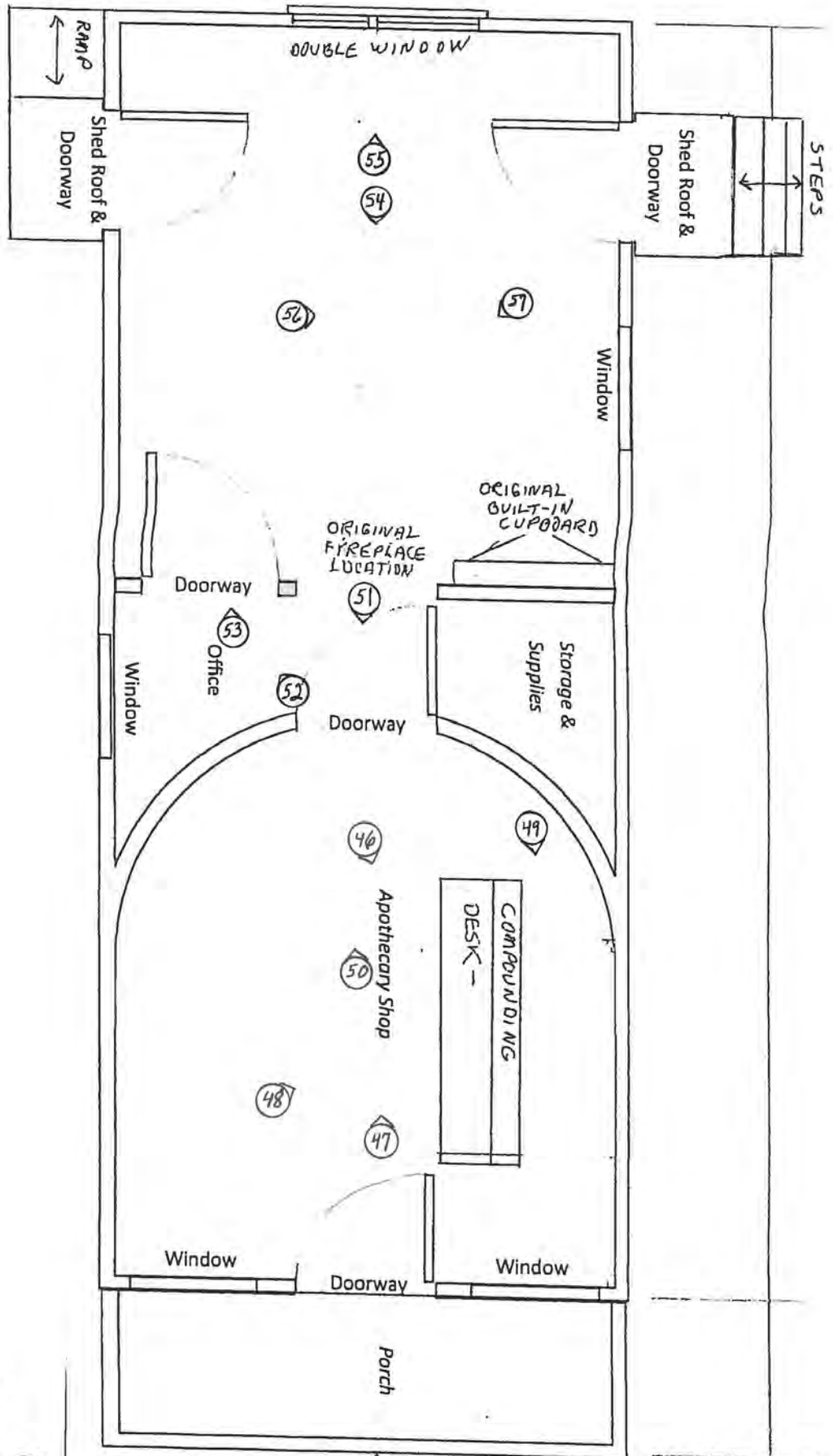
**Durham Place**  
**Oglethorpe County, Georgia**

Photo Key  
 House Floor Plan

Photograph/Direction of View:



# DURHAM APOTHECARY SHOP



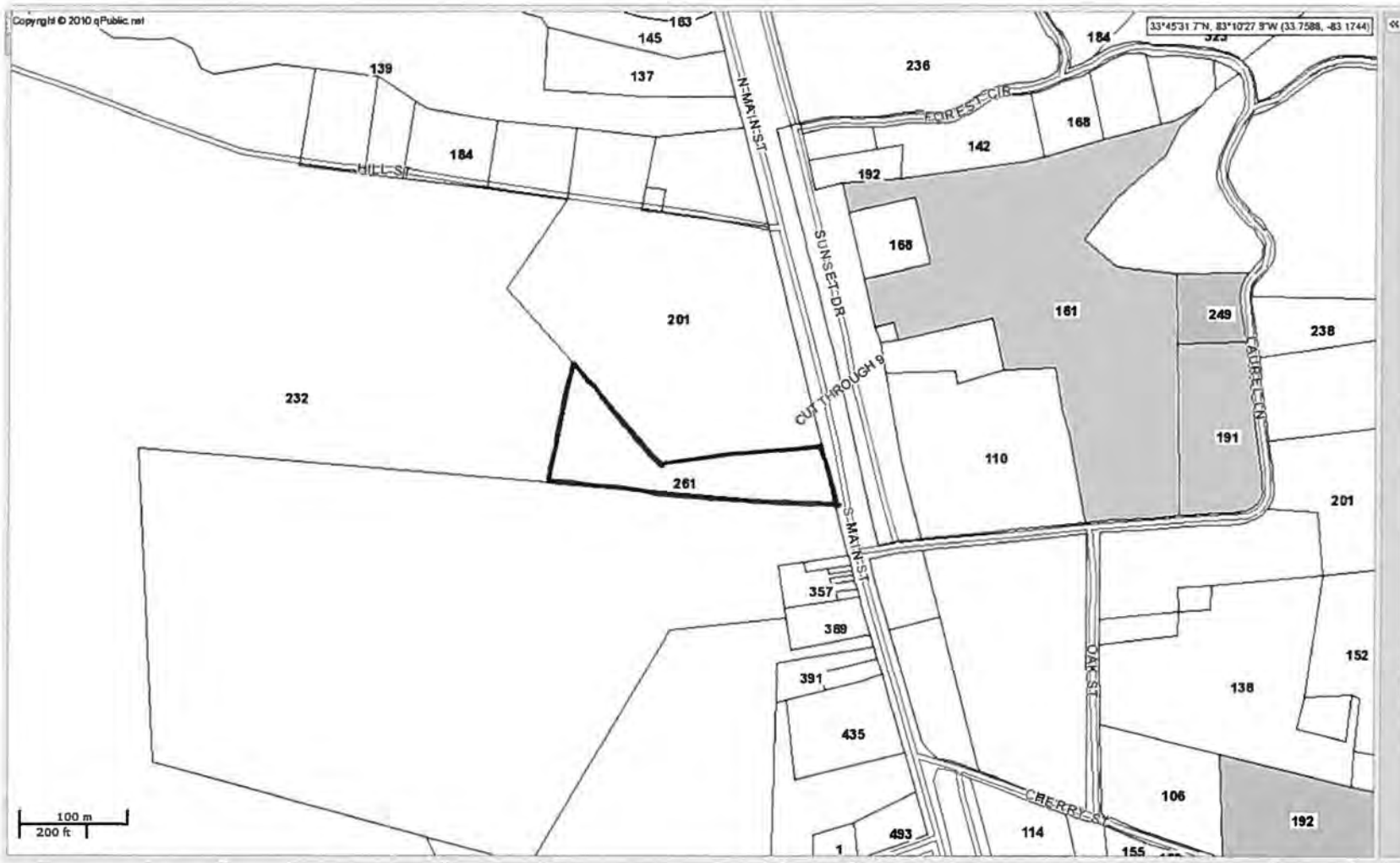
Durham Place  
 Oglethorpe County, Georgia

Photo Key


Apothecary Floor Plan

Photograph/Direction of View: (42) →



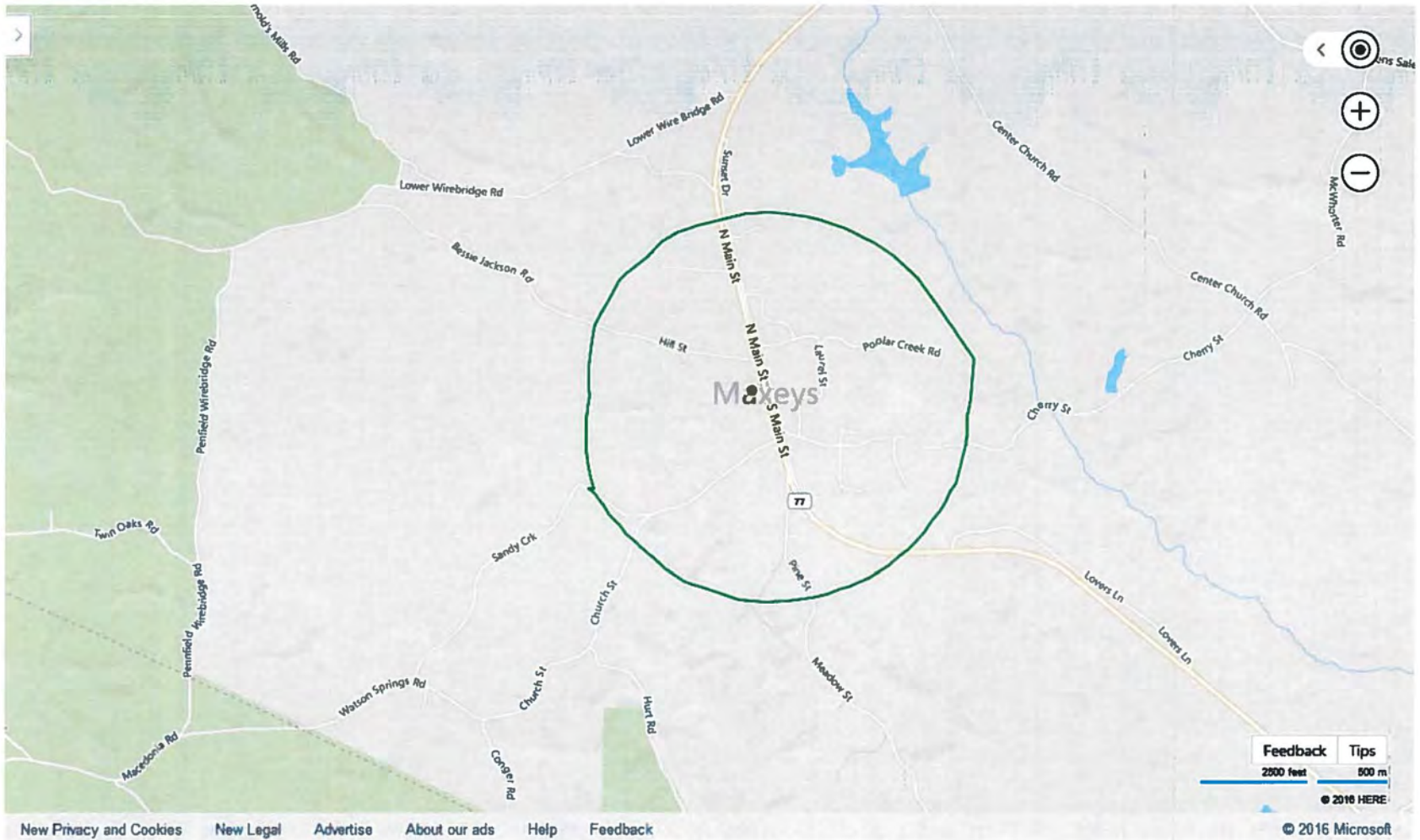


**Durham Place**  
**Oglethorpe County, Georgia**

National Register Boundary: 

North ↑

Source: Oglethorpe County Board of Tax Assessors qPublic



**Durham Place**  
261 North Main Street  
Maxeys, Oglethorpe County  
North ↑  
Lat 33.756378  
Long -83.175020































































































DORIAN  
SPILARSKY  
MUSEUM  
EST. 1977

















Durham Place









BRIVALLI ROOM 1011 CONSTRUCTION











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/21/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 6/5/2017      Date of Weekly List: 6/8/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      6/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION**

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

April 19, 2017

Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Beall:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **Durham Place in Oglethorpe County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Original USGS topographic map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do  do not  constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Christy Atkins  
National Register Historian